



REMARKS

Examiner Joerger is thanked for the courtesy extended during the Office Interview on August 25, 2006.

The Interview Summary is believed to accurately reflect what was discussed and agreed to during the Interview.

Reconsideration of the objection to the drawings is hereby requested. Claim 13 is deleted without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter therein. Therefore, reconsideration of this objection is respectfully requested.

Reconsideration of the rejection of Claim 9 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, is hereby requested. Claim 9 is amended to change the phrase "the ring disk" to "a ring disk". Therefore, reconsideration of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Reconsideration of the rejection of Claims 1-8, 10, 12, 15 and 16 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Krüger et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,286,838), the rejection of Claims 1, 4, 7, 9, 11, 12, 14, 16 and 17 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by Steinacker et al. (U.S. Patent No. 2,828,069), and the rejection of Claims 1, 7 and 13 as being anticipated by Nilson et al. (U.S. Patent No. 3,837,567), is hereby requested. As stated in the Interview Summary, "[T]he proposed amendments appear to overcome the prior art applied by the examiner in the previous Office Action". Independent Claims 1, 15 and 16 have been amended as proposed. Therefore, Claims 1, 15, and 16 are considered to have overcome the above rejections and are in condition for allowance, and such is respectfully requested.

Claim 12 has been amended to correct a spelling error.

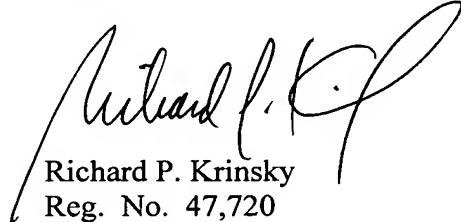
New Claim 18 has been added which includes the subject matter of the first part of Claim 7. No new matter has been added.

Claims 2-12, 14-15 and 18 depend from Claim 1 and Claim 17 depends from Claim 16. These dependent claims are considered to be in condition for allowance for the same reasons as their respective independent claims and for their own limitations as well, as such is respectfully requested.

In view of the above, Claims 1-12 and 14-18 and the application are considered to be in condition for allowance and such is respectfully requested.

It is respectfully requested that, if necessary to effect a timely response, this paper be considered as a Petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response and shortages in other fees, be charged, or any overpayment in fees be credited, to the Account of Barnes & Thornburg LLP, Deposit Account No. 02-1010 (677/41956).

Respectfully submitted,



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Enclosures
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